



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Renew. Revitalize. Reorganize (RRR) New School Initiatives and Enhanced Staffing Models for DCPS

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is RRR?**

RRR stands for “Renew. Revitalize. Reorganize.” It is a proposed plan for bringing exciting new academic programs to our schools, from new early learning programs and strong technology-based models to enhanced special education programs. To bring these new programs, we must reallocate our school resources.

- **What is the difference between your plans for school restructuring and your RRR plan on new school programs?**

There are 27 schools in the District that, due to consistent failure to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), have been federally mandated to create and implement a restructuring plan. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) provides five options for this change. In a series of community meetings, we will explain these options and what they mean for schools in restructuring status.

RRR, the plan described above, proposes to reorganize the school system in order to more efficiently and strategically provide high quality, comprehensive academic programs to all students. RRR involves replicating successful DCPS programs in other schools, creating new innovations to enrich existing programs, and rightsizing the school system to meet the needs of its student population. This plan also will be brought to the community for feedback through a series of community dialogues.

- **Why do we need to close schools?**

Our schools are not resourced the way they should be. We have laid out what the resourcing and staffing should look like and in order to get from where we are to where we want to be, we must make a significant effort to ensure that all resources are utilized effectively. Therefore, we must close schools so that over time, all of our schools will have comprehensive staffing models in place to deliver quality programs and support to our children.

- **How did you make the decisions about which schools to close? What criteria did you use?**

The proposal was developed using a variety of criteria through two levels of analysis. The primary analysis examined objective data related to enrollment decline and overall school enrollment. Applying these criteria, we created an initial list of 40 schools that were candidates for closure. These schools were identified after calculations showed that they have consistently been below median enrollment and above median rates of decline of enrollment over the past five years.

We then completed a secondary analysis that considered other factors, like geographic isolation, walkability, enrollment patterns and trends, potential neighborhood impact, site amenities, proximity to other schools, and overall impact on the DCPS system as a whole. Each factor was considered from the school, cluster, and neighborhood levels.

Through this process, some schools were removed from the proposed list, while other schools were added as alternatives in order to create a rational, comprehensive plan that would maximize the benefit to students and the school system.

- **Is this plan final?**

No. This plan represents a proposal. We will be conducting community dialogues to present and then receive input on the proposal. We will incorporate those dialogues with our research in order to make final decisions by the end of January.

- **How will the community be heard?**

The community will be heard through feedback received at community dialogues. We also welcome your responses to our plan through the DCPS website and through written responses sent to the chancellor's office. All input received will be considered before any final decisions are made. The list of community dialogues is at the end of this document.

- **An FAQ is nice, but I want details. Where can I find them?**

Our website, www.k12.dc.gov contains a billboard on the main page through which you can view the plan and other documents related to it. It includes a link to Mayor Fenty's plans and the supporting documents that went into our plans. Over time and as our dialogues progress, we will post the individualized plans for every site. For those who do not have internet access, we will present plan information through community dialogues and will provide additional information as requested.

- **Where will students be assigned?**

Students will attend the closest neighborhood school for the appropriate grade level. In addition, we will continue to offer out-of-boundary transfers, which parents should apply for beginning at the end of January. Through RRR, we will expand quality school options in every ward, making more choices available for all families.

- **I am concerned about living near a vacant building. If my school building closes, what will happen to the building?**

The city will balance an inventory of property with the needs of residents and the needs of DCPS. We intend to use the buildings for the benefit of our city, supporting educational needs first. For example, a school property could be used to house a student and family health center, an early childhood education program, or another city agency. Should any building have an interim period in which it is not in use, we fully intend to take the reasonable steps to secure and protect city properties. We do not have plans to sell the property or allow it to fall into disrepair or unmonitored use.

- If my school closes, what happens to the teachers, staff and principal?**
 We will review staffing needs so that they are tailored to serve new school programs, student enrollment, and student needs. Teachers and staff may choose to transfer to a new program according to the transfer rights governed by their respective labor contracts.
- My school receives a grant, but my school is scheduled to close. What happens to the grant?**
 Grants normally apply to students and programs rather than buildings. We are examining our grants and communicating with grantors so that students may continue to receive the programs the grant provides.
- When will the designated schools close?**
 If the decision is made to close a particular school, that school will not close until after the current school year. Most schools will close for the 2008 – 2009 school year. In some cases, schools will close later.

Wards	Dates & Times	Locations
1, 2 and 6	12/10 6 – 8pm	Tubman ES 3101 13 th St., NW
	12/17 6 – 8pm	Francis JHS 2425 N St., NW
	1/9 6 – 8pm	Miner ES 601 15 th St., NE
4 & 5	12/11 7:30- 9:30pm	Noyes ES 2725 10 th St., NE
	12/18 6 – 8pm	Barnard ES 430 Decatur St., NW
	1/10 6 – 8pm	Emery ES 1720 1 st St., NE
7 & 8	12/12 6 – 8pm	Patterson ES 4399 South Capitol Terr., SW
	12/19 6 – 8pm	Plummer ES 4601 Texas Ave., SE
	1/11 6 – 8pm	Hart MS 601 Mississippi Ave., SE